

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A restriction requirement was issued by the Examiner between the following two groups of claims:

Group I: claims 16-23; and

Group II: claims 1-15 and 24-28.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect without traverse Group II claims 1-15 and 24-28. Group I claims 16-23 are accordingly canceled without prejudice to filing of divisional applications directed thereto.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Kent J. Tobin
Reg. No. 39,496

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
KJT:ejt
60601568 v1